

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Angelina Baez, I am a Student from Hartford.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 284: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,” with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

I come from a family that has full coverage health insurance. All my life I have always been able to go to the hospital when needed; without having to worry about whether my family can afford it or not. I can play sports, go out with friends, participate in gym class, etc, without having a fear of injuring myself. When I’m feeling ill or sick, I have the option to go to the hospital to seek aid if needed. Sadly a lot of my peers don't have access to this. Making them live their everyday lives in fear of something happening. Having to pay for health insurance can be a lot for families of lower-income. Especially if their child has medical issues, this problem makes it incredibly difficult to obtain medication or help from medical professionals.

Students who are undocumented under the age of nine have this available to them. Unfortunately, kids of an older age don’t have this luxury. I believe healthcare should be free for all children. All those under 18 deserve to live a life where they aren't in constant worry of putting their family in debt. A simple accident is all it takes for someone to end up in the hospital. When you don’t have health insurance this visit could cost anywhere from a couple hundred, to a couple of thousand dollars. Having access to healthcare would make a big impact for those who don’t already have it, by allowing them to go out and do things freely.

I support S.B. No 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Angelina Baez